

A LARGE conflagration occurred in the district of Calamba, (Philippines) on the 22nd July, when between 200 and 300 houses were burned down. No lives were lost, but the value of the property destroyed is considerable.

A YOKOHAMA paper did a very smart performance with its evening edition on the 24th ult. Mr. Balfour finished his speech at the Leeds Coliseum at ten minutes to nine. Half-an-hour afterwards, while Mr. Jackson was speaking, a copy of the paper was handed to Mr. Balfour, containing a verbatim report of his speech.

The Shanghai Mercury says that steamers coming from the North report that the navigation of the Peiho has almost been rendered impossible by the volume and strength of the freshets this year. The several canals have already overflowed in consequence, the chief one being the canal between the Taku and Lighter Company's tug boat, and the loss of three lives.

Mr. McMillan, referred to in a recent issue of the Times of Ceylon as going to attend the Buddhist priesthood, is taking a preliminary course of instruction under Sumangala, the chief priest of the Buddhist religion, the chief one being the order of the Buddhist community is likely to take place in about a couple of months. He will after some few years' study in Ceylon proceed to the West to preach Buddhism under the auspices of the Theosophical Society.

BISHOP Edward Bickersteth, of Japan, has addressed a pastoral letter to his clergy, in which he says that the spiritual wants of the continually increasing number of travellers who spend a longer or shorter time there now as at antiquely provided for. The returns from a steady increase in the whole number of Japanese church members. The staff of clergy has slightly increased, the total being now fifty, of whom thirteen are Japanese. The English lay workers number thirty-seven, of whom thirty-two are ladies.

DURING the cruise last year of the Albatross, a schooner attached to the Russian Siberian fleet, the date when a typhoon is reported to have passed over Hainan, and he heard nothing of a typhoon there. There was only the customary squall of the end during the afternoon, followed by fine weather. The report of the typhoon at Hainan would therefore appear to be inaccurate.

REAGANT WATERS' MURMUR. That Saturday last must have been a red-letter day for the College of Medicine for Chinese, and for the irrepressible Dean of Faculty of that ilk.

That even over the two Chinese medical holdings, hatched and raised during the last five years, the Dean, Senate, Court, etc. etc. have abundant reason for boasting.

That the matter of aid from the Government becomes a question only because of the poverty of the Public Exchequer and of the Colony.

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THE TYPHOON AT HAIPHONG.

Captain Wendt, of the German steamer *Oceanus*, has supplied us with some particulars of the typhoon which passed over Haiphong on the 26th July. He intended sailing that morning, but about 10 a.m. rain began to fall heavily, accompanied by a strong gale from the N.W., and as the barometer began to fall he deemed it prudent to remain in the river. The glass continued to fall steadily from 29.50 to 28.00, the minimum being reached about 3 p.m. At this time the gale developed into a typhoon, veering from N.W. to S.E. It was not till 5 p.m. that the wind slackened down sufficiently to allow the *Oceanus* to weigh anchor and steam down the river. The glass then rose slowly, but a gale was blowing from the S.E. till midnight. Throughout the day rain fell heavily that it was at times impossible to see thirty yards away from the steamer. The *Oceanus* was the only trading steamer in the Harbour at the time. There were two gunboats and a transport, however, and steam was kept up on board these vessels to meet any emergency. In the whole of Captain Wendt's experience in the China Sea he has not heard of a typhoon travelling in the same direction—from N.W. to S.E.—as that of the 26th. He does not know the extent of the damage done at Haiphong, but before coming down the river he noticed the roofs of two houses being carried away. Coming up to Hong-kong there was a heavy sea from S.E. The weather was fine.

With regard to the earthquake at Haiphong, he states that no damage was done by it. A severe tremor was felt by the inhabitants.

Captain Wendt has been at Haiphong twice since the date when a typhoon is reported to have passed over Hainan, and he heard nothing of a typhoon there. There was only the customary squall of the end during the afternoon, followed by fine weather. The report of the typhoon at Hainan would therefore appear to be inaccurate.

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That the Commission appointed to inquire into the matter had ample examples of suitable combinations.

That even now a few members of the large staff could in their busy moments ring the changes better—any drum and corn, cone and drum, two—ones in a diamond, etc.

That I would recommend the Doctor to look at the Hooghly River signals for storms, and take the least out and work on it—happy man, if you can.

That it is dangerous to be safe in the typhoon season.

That our safety is about insured when there is something dangling at the yard-arms of the signalling stations: any other time, look out.

That when the halliard of the South or North cone gets jammed, it should not take three days to cut them adrift and land the 'black' 'em.

That so long as our present Director of Steamers ignores the warnings from Manila, he will assuredly tend to mislead the shipping community of this port.

That the vagaries of the local Observatory become more puzzling than need be, when we are informed, 'The Typhoon' has done as so, and the particular storm is not specified.

That the latest addition to the laws or freaks of circular storms is that the centre of a typhoon can pass over a port and town without doing any damage.

That we have this statement upon the authority of Dr. Dobereck.

That our worthy Storm-warrior has raised a typhoon to the N.E. of Bohol without any apparent aid from Manila.

That the valorous Celestials who promptly ran away from their duty the other day (leaving a Government steam-ship to float along like a torpedo) may not have the opportunity of returning to duty.

That the great Dock at Haiphong is, after all the talk about white elephants, found to be still insufficient for the requirements of the greyhounds of the East.

That the Canadian Pacific are looking well ahead and intend to secure the Australian routes, and send them on to Chicago next year via this port.

That the City of Rome has been casually mentioned as a probable feeder, but the docks here cannot accommodate her.

That the last two G.P.R. steamers had to go dockless to sea, owing to the *Leander* being in sick bay and out of sorts.

That unless the Naval authorities desire to assert their position and insist in docking all their craft in the Admiralty Dock, it should not be necessary to shut up a 500-foot dock with a 300-foot ship.

That shareholders will perhaps be glad to see that the Admiralty is making some use of the dock, even to the inconvenience of shutting out other work.

That Aberdeen Dock (the larger of the two) can easily be lengthened to take the largest ocean steamer, at a very small cost compared to attempting a similar operation at Kowloon.

That as the Docks on that side of the Island are not always required, the work of lengthening could be gone on with economically.

That the only thing in the way is permission to divert the road which is immediately behind the head of the large Dock.

That the arrival of the P. & O. yacht *Peninsular* (she always looks like a yacht to me, and only about half her real size) calls for a word.

That her mail was brought on in 27 days, 14 hours, as I make it, allowing for the difference in time of 7½ hours.

That she could have done it, as she or the *Oriental* did before, within the twenty-seven days; but even an hour and a half over 27 days is good going.

That many people are asking why the good-natured Mr. Bellies made that highly ridiculous speech at the Steamboat meeting.

That of course a Chairman's speech is not necessary all his own, as the Secretary and the other Directors may have their hand in the pie.

That it is not customary to float the public in the manner adopted on this occasion, or to threaten to supply one's customers with an inferior article on the ground of inadequate support.

That Mr. Fenwick called attention to a chief point of interest to the shareholders, about which not a word had been said.

That ill-natured speech at Company meetings is quite a new departure for Hong-kong.

pressure brought to bear on the home markets by the *Société des Métaux*.

That it seems impossible for any length of time to artificially bolster up the value of any metal, so that as soon as the enormous gold hoards are thrown into circulation, which will probably be in the early autumn, we may expect to see a big rise in the value of the dollar and rupee.

That should silver become so depreciated as to be utterly unreliable as a circulating medium, and there not being sufficient gold to meet the world's requirements, a substitute would have to be found.

That it has been suggested that the valuable Japanese alloy known as *Shakudo* and *Shakuchi* could be usefully employed for this purpose.

That there are objections to the use of these alloys for coinage purposes, but I think these objections could be overcome.

That John Sherman seems determined to 'settle the silver' and at the same time that of his own conditioning party, but I shall be greatly mistaken if he does not find on gaining the silver platform a formidable opponent in Senator Stewart.

That the Hongkong Government have evidently sacrificed the recently derived from the issue of subsidiary coinage *pour encourager les autres*.

That the poor, hard-up, ineptuous broker and general public have to pay the piper, and that the Hongkong little colony should be looked upon as a machine for sending out official salaries.

That I have been lately favoured by your morning contemporary with various opinions on Binetallism emanating from Mr. John Moffat, the prisoner.

That as in the case of Binetallism, the subject qualified to throw in his views on the subject with such men as Messrs. Fielden Foxwell & Co. no one will have the least shadow of doubt.

That he would be conferring a great benefit on the colony if he would give a return of his remarks on Silver Legislation, interspersed with a few suggestions as to the Binetallism par, compiled in pamphlet form.

That Lord Cochrane, Mr. Goeben would not doubt like to hear Mr. Moffat's Silver Legislation theory, and I would venture to suggest that pamphlets be forwarded to them and to the Chambers of Commerce in India.

That I am glad to observe in my daily ramble that the public have 'caught on' to these metallic murmurs, and if I succeed in arousing general interest in this most important subject, I shall not have murmured in vain.

That in spite of the sneers of those who have not an imperfect knowledge of the question, and fail to grasp its magnitude, I shall keep on to the end of my way and continue to murmur until my prediction has been verified.

BROWNIE.

THE PO LEUNG KUK AT WORK.

MR. WOODHOUSE ON THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

Mr. Woodhouse had additional evidence at the Magistrate's day-in-conjunction with the charge of 'deceiving a man into the Colony' brought against a man named Wong Ling. The charge was brought through the agency of the Po Leung Kuk, and the evidence to-day was almost exclusively confined to the proceedings taken by the Society in the case and the detention of the prisoner in the Tung Wa. On the latter point Mr. Woodhouse spoke at some length in disposing of the case.

The complainant, recalled, said he did not want to go on board the steamer which brought him to Hongkong. The defendant asked him to go on board to have a look at it, and as soon as he got on board the ship started. No force was used to get him on board.

Yik Chi, chief dealer, one of the committee of the Po Leung Kuk, said:—I went to the Tung Wa Hospital on Sunday, 24th, and saw one of the clerks of the Po Leung Kuk, who told me that Mok Chi had arrested four vagrants. So I went to the committee who told me that they had arrested four vagrants. I went to the committee who told me that they had arrested four vagrants.

Inspector Stanton—I went to the Po Leung Kuk about 8 p.m. on Monday, 25th, and saw one of the clerks of the day, who told me that Mok Chi had arrested four vagrants. I went to the committee who told me that they had arrested four vagrants.

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Mr. Woodhouse said—I shall not call upon the prisoners to make their defence. The complainant who brings the original charge has varied his statement so much from time to time that it is impossible for me to attach credibility to what he says. The whole case bears the appearance of a con game planned, having voluntarily come down to Hongkong on the promise that employment would be found for him there by the prisoner, and of his having changed his mind upon the arrival of the steamer, and finding it was possible that he was going to be kidnapped and sent abroad.

Had he made that statement in the box in all probability the prisoner would have been convicted. But I am bound to take his evidence on his merits, and if he chooses to give me some other story, which he thinks is better calculated to secure the conviction of the defendant, but which is not true, the defendant must get the benefit of it. This is an ordinary case of a man being brought to Hongkong for the purpose of giving evidence, and not in question now and his chief interest lies in the part that has been taken in it by the Po Leung Kuk.

In what I am going to say I have not the least intention of saying anything against the motives for the organization of the society. I confine myself entirely to this case. And I am sorry to say that the impression left on my mind is a very disagreeable one. I consider the case of the society as being a case of a man being brought to Hongkong for the purpose of giving evidence, and not in question now and his chief interest lies in the part that has been taken in it by the Po Leung Kuk.

The poor, hard-up, ineptuous broker and general public have to pay the piper, and that the Hongkong little colony should be looked upon as a machine for sending out official salaries.

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They are more likely to obtain the end in view if quite wrong. In what I have said I have no desire to make any reflection on your institution. I am merely dealing with this particular case, and I am dealing with it from the prisoner's point of view. He is not defended and is therefore entitled to all the advantages of the complainant's story. The result has been that, whereas I think that if the matter had been brought forward in the ordinary and simple way in which it ought to have been, and the complainant left to tell his story as it actually occurred, a conviction would easily have been obtained; as if I think the prisoner has not been proved guilty and he is discharged.

HUNAN AND THE FOREIGNERS.

The Kienkiang correspondent of the N.C. Daily News writes:—We have in the port of Hankow a United States gunboat, these have come to replace the *Peter* which has gone on to Hankow, where we hear she will spend the summer. The gunboat is a French and a United States gunboat, these have come to replace the *Peter* which has gone on to Hankow, where we hear she will spend the summer.

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THE PENJON GOLD COMPANY, LIMITED.

Messrs. Becker, Louis and Co. send the following letter to the Singapore papers:—It may perhaps prove of public interest to know how much work has been done by the above Company at their Falls Mine during the past half year. The results from January 1st to June 30th are as follows:—

Number of feet of levels driven 340
Number of stoping done 1010
Number of Tons of Quartz extracted 1195
Gold won 941 ounces 4 dwts.

This return is at the very satisfactory rate of 16 dwts. 18 grs. of free gold per ton of quartz.

In addition there have been shipped 3 tons 5 cwt. of concentrated pyrites for treatment in England, the last parcel of which realised in London at the rate of £40 stg. per ton.

The above results cannot but be looked upon as proving the intrinsic value of this mine, having regard to the enormous difficulties under which work has had to be carried on.

The Free Press says:—The letter of Messrs. Becker, Louis & Co., calling attention to the results of the last six months' working at the Penjion Mines is particularly opportune at the present time. So much has been written of the mineral wealth of Pahang, and comparatively so little been done with it, that there is a strong tendency to believe that all the previous good reports of mining experts have been based on too exaggerated hopes, and that the mine is a mere speculation. Now the amount of gold and tin won from Pahang is exceedingly insignificant compared with what is produced in other parts of the world. That we have frequently pointed out, it is due in most cases to the want of capital to carry on operations on a sufficiently large scale to pay dividends. It is just as hopeless a task to attempt to make a fortune from the ownership of a mine as it is to carry on mining with only sufficient capital to provide a small staff and an inadequate establishment. Granted that much capital has been wasted in Pahang from misdirected effort, but that capital has been entirely engaged in remunerative operations, it is not a mine worth sufficient to scratch the ground. Penjion is only an instance in point; Raub is another; and Kuantan is a third. In each of these cases the ore has been for more capital; the stage when the mine is worth more than the cost of the mine is now reached. If the enormous difficulties they have met with, extraneous altogether to mining work, be considered, the wonder is rather that so much has been done. In saying this there is no intention of boasting, but to show that the companies, none of them show signs of becoming Mount Morgans, but they do show that with a fair chance they will be able to do more than pay their way, and when mines can do that they become investments and not mere speculations.

Another many suggestions that have been offered to make volunteering more attractive in India is the following, which reaches us from an old Volunteer Officer:—'Give the rank and give a small pension, and make the pension a permanent one. In nine cases out of ten the pension would never be claimed. Don't fix a cap on the pension. One is not required. For twenty years active service with a thoroughly good record, give a permanent cap. Rs. 50 per month. Rs. 40 per month for 10 years, and private Rs. 20. For twenty-five years' approved service slightly increase these figures. All members of the force would be satisfied. There would be a substantial attraction to the service, and the few able to serve would care to miss. Let the grant apply with retrospective effect for past service, if fully approved and satisfactory in every respect. The question of the pension of the officers is a secondary point altogether. Let it be a month for the same period of service would be ample. The chances are that the Government would seldom have to meet a claim for an officer's pension. That, however, is not the point. Offer the pension.—Times of India.

THE WORLD'S COINAGE FOR A YEAR.

The value of the coins struck by the Mints of the world during 1891 was less than it has been for several years past. The decline has been in the yellow metal, for the white has increased considerably, and would have shown even a greater extension had the old level of price been maintained. Thus, in turning the rupees issued from the Indian Mints into sterling, we have calculated them on the basis of 15 to the £ as compared with 13 a year ago. The figures compare as follows:—

1891. 1890. 1889.
Gold. £22,885,291 £20,227,214 £20,539,428
Silver. 2,598,145 2,734,387 2,734,387
Ditto. 654,708 1,009,535 352,304
£25,138,144 £23,971,536 £23,606,121

With respect to gold coinage Russia shows by far the largest reduction of any State; for, whereas in 1890 it amounted to nearly £4,500,000, last year it was under £500,000. Germany has also declined considerably, £3,600,000 in 1890 compared with £5,600,000 in 1891. Spain had no gold coinage at all last year, and in 1890 it had only £1,900,000. The London Mint is responsible for a decline of about £1,600,000, although the total is much above the average of the past ten years. The United States minted nearly £500,000 more gold coins, and Turkey jumped up to the very respectable total of over £700,000. Coming to silver, there has been a decrease in the London coinage of £259,000, but an increase in that of the Indian Mints of about 54 per cent, the amount being 1814 million rupees as against 883 million rupees in the preceding year. The silver coinage of the United States was but slightly larger. Portugal increased its issue by £1,301,000, and Spain added nearly £1,000,000. The figures for China and Japan are not obtainable this year.

During the year a small amount of coinage was struck at the Berlin Mint for the Transvaal. They bear on their obverse the effigy of President Kruger and on the reverse the arms of the South African Republic. A small silver and bronze coinage was also struck at Berlin for the German East Africa Company. There has been a considerable amount of coinage struck from Paris with coins equivalent to the French currency, and from the French Mint also the Republic of San Domingo has been supplied with silver and bronze coinage. The London Mint, except in addition to the Imperial gold, silver and bronze coins for Canada, British Guiana, Cyprus, Jamaica, and the Straits Settlements, while the Birmingham Mint struck a silver coinage for Hongkong. The following are the totals of the respective coinages:—

Gold. Silver. Bronze.
London. £22,885,291 £20,227,214 £20,539,428
Berlin. 2,598,145 2,734,387 2,734,387
Paris. 654,708 1,009,535 352,304
San Domingo. 2,598,145 2,734,387 2,734,387
Birmingham. 654,708 1,009,535 352,304
Total. £25,138,144 £23,971,536 £23,606,121

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

St. John's Cathedral.—Parade Service at 8.30 a.m. (Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays.) Matins at 11. Holy Communion at the 11 o'clock service on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays in the month. Evening at 6.45.

St. Peter's Church, Kennedy Road.—Minister Rev. G. H. Bedford. Services at 11.00 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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TEMPERATURE.

(Taken at Messrs. Palmer & Co.'s Premises, Queen's Road.)

Barometer—9 a.m. — 29.84
Do. 1 p.m. — 29.81
Do. 4 p.m. — 29.80
Thermometer—9 a.m. — 83
Do. 1 p.m. — 85
Do. 4 p.m. — 87
Do. (Wet bulb) 9 a.m. — 78
Do. 1 p.m. — 80
Do. 4 p.m

Intimations.

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China Mail Order.

OPATIONS.—July 80, 1893.

Value.	Paid-up.	Closing Quotations, Cash.
0000 \$. 125	all	88, prom., nom.
875 2	10 2 1.15	334, sellers

200	12	1	200	nom.
2	102	5.10	40	dis., sales
0.00	25	a	50	\$89, sellers
0.00	83.3	a	25	\$89, buyers
0.00	2	a	50	Tls. 227, a
0.00	10	a	5	\$14, ex div., sellers
0.00	25	a	20	\$88, sellers
0.00	10.	a		\$102, buyers
0.00	10	a	20	\$84
0.00	25	a		\$263, sellers
0.00	10	a		\$15, sellers
0.00				\$6, sellers
0.00	1.	a		84 % prem.
0.00	0	a.1		\$27, sellers
0.00	50	all		\$36, buyers
0.00	0	all		\$29, sales
0.00	10	all		37 1/2 % dis., ex div., sell
0.00	5			\$30, sellers
0.00	10.2			\$3, sellers
0.00	10			\$5, sellers
0.00	12			\$28.10
0.00	100	a		\$120, buyers

100	all	\$50
100	50	\$48
2,600	100	\$27,842
0,000	100	\$54, ex div.
6,000	50	\$37, sellers
1,900	10	\$18
2,000	50	\$20, sellers
1,200	100	\$40, sellers
0,000	5	\$6, sales
0,000	10	\$0 etc., sales
150,000	5	\$12, etc., sellers
2,000	5	\$1, sellers
3,000	500	\$180, sales
0,000	10	\$25 cents
7,600	17 1/2	\$1.50, sales and buyers
200,000	17 1/2	\$5 cents
3,000	500	\$75 % dis., sellers
3,000	370	\$7 sellers

5.00	\$	50	all	\$24, sellers
5.00	\$	25	a	\$41, sellers
5.00	\$	5	a	\$21, sales
5.00	\$		a	\$151, buyers
5.00	\$		a	\$13, buyers
5.10	\$	10	a	\$102,
5.10	\$	10	a	\$23, buyers
5.00	\$	50	all	\$5
5.00	\$	20	\$17.5	\$73, sellers
5.0000	\$	200	530	nom.
5.20	\$	1	at	\$4, sellers
5.20	\$	20	a	\$14, sales and sellers
5.00	\$	5	at	\$65, sellers
5.00	\$	10	at	\$48, buyers
5.00	\$	20	at	\$68
5.00	\$	50	all	\$65, buyers

Value.	Interest.	Quotation.
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\$500	8 % p. annu	\$508 1/2 buyers
Tls. 250	7 " "	Tls. 275, buyers
\$500	6 " pre-u	\$500

ica. No. 5, Wundham Street, Hongkong.

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